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# **DEATH NEWS** **SOUTHWARK**

## **A true ACCOUNT** **OF THE** **Most Horrid MURDER** committed **MARGARET OSGOOD**

On her Husband **WALTER OSGOOD** a Hat-maker,  
 On Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1686.  
 When she most barbarously Murdered, by Cleaving his Head  
 whilst he was asleep; cutting off his Ears, and Wounding him in  
 several other places in an inhuman manner.  
 Together with the Examination and Confession of the whole Fact before  
 the Justice of the Peace, and Commitment of her to Prison till Trial.  
 In other Cases long Preambles may be necessary, but here  
 is too much matter, and too horrid, to need other  
 or Aggravation; therefore we shall immediately come to  
 the naked Fact, which being truly related, must be acknow-  
 ledged one of the most dismal Tragedies the Age has seen.  
 Margaret at all times is black and crying fit, no less abhor-  
 red by Nature, than punishable by all Laws of God  
 and Man; but to find it perpetrated with such  
 of the softer Sex, and by a Wife upon her Husband, and with-  
 out any proportionate provocation, and to be permitted in  
 this manner, and in such a place, this seems to be the height  
 of nature, and a feared Rarity.  
 The persons concerned in this wicked Deed, lived in South-  
 wark in a place called Farthing-Alley, not far from St. Thomas's  
 Hof.



Hospital. The Man Murdered was by Trade an *Hatter*; his Wife, by whose hand he was now Butchered, was formerly his Mistress, the Wife then of one *Richard Oake* of the same profession, a man honest and industrious, but very unhappy, as it was reported, in a Wife, being too free and liberal of kindnesses both to his *Servants*, and others who courted her favour, which several were not waiting for, she being a handsome and well proportioned Woman. To raise it is, for *Benny* and *Verine*, the Indulgences of Nature, and the Influences of Grace, to joyn and keep company together.

Cook her former Husband, dying sometime since, about a Month after she married this *Osgood* her man; and 'tis said, was left worth by her late Husband, two or three hundred pounds, which willingly he would have disposed of to other Relations, had not the importunities of his Neighbours over-persuaded him in favour of his Wife.

This *Margaret* was now about forty years of age, and *Walter Osgood*, whom she had taken to her Husband, not above Twenty; whether this disproportion in their years, or any other occasion gave any grounds of Jealousie or Discontent, I know not, but the Neighbours generally relate, that they were both too much to blame, each of them following their own extravagant courses, whereby not only their stock was much impaired and wasted, but continual feuds and ill-language of late happened between them; in so much, that (as an ancient Neighbour attests) they seldom went to bed without a storm of Oaths and mutual Curses.

Particularly on Friday night last, the 30th of July 1680, he came home (some say in drink) about Ten of the clock, and the old Rencounters happened, yet to no such unusual degree, as to be taken notice of by the Neighbourhood; rather, than that one evening he heard her decal'd threaten to kill his Wife, which she likewise affirmed, and as it seems by the bloody sequel, was resolv'd to pay him and anticipate him therein. For as she afterwards manifestly no longer was to be found in his Bed and fast asleep, but the Devil inspired her mind with a cur'd Resolution, and her trembling hand with sufficient strength to Murder him, which she performed in the most cruel





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cried and ~~informed~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> that ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> had ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> heard of ; for taking into her hands an old ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup> and ~~blunt~~ <sup>blunt</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~any~~ <sup>any</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~thought~~ <sup>thought</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~such~~ <sup>such</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~bar-~~ <sup>bar-</sup> ~~barous~~ <sup>barous</sup> ~~purpose~~ <sup>purpose</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~therewith~~ <sup>therewith</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~did~~ <sup>did</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~face~~ <sup>face</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~hideous~~ <sup>hideous</sup> ~~scath~~ <sup>scath</sup> ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~three~~ <sup>three</sup> ~~inches~~ <sup>inches</sup> ~~wide~~ <sup>wide</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~poor~~ <sup>poor</sup> ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup> ~~thus~~ <sup>thus</sup> ~~entirely~~ <sup>entirely</sup> ~~enlivened~~ <sup>enlivened</sup> ~~only~~ <sup>only</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~dying~~ <sup>dying</sup> ~~need~~ <sup>need</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hereupon~~ <sup>hereupon</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~since~~ <sup>since</sup> ~~acknowledged~~ <sup>acknowledged</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~up~~ <sup>up</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~hands~~ <sup>hands</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~implore~~ <sup>implore</sup> ~~mercy~~ <sup>mercy</sup> ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~savage~~ <sup>savage</sup> ~~Rage~~ <sup>Rage</sup> ; but ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> ~~wild~~ <sup>wild</sup> ~~Rage~~ <sup>Rage</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~lost~~ <sup>lost</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~intended~~ <sup>intended</sup> ~~womanly~~ <sup>womanly</sup> ~~regard~~ <sup>regard</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> ~~Duty~~ <sup>Duty</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~Causes~~ <sup>Causes</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~pursues~~ <sup>pursues</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~Revenge~~ <sup>Revenge</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~cuts~~ <sup>cuts</sup> ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup> ~~again~~ <sup>again</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~drives~~ <sup>drives</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Revolving~~ <sup>Revolving</sup> ~~into~~ <sup>into</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Skull~~ <sup>Skull</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~therewith~~ <sup>therewith</sup> ~~satisfied~~ <sup>satisfied</sup> ~~slices~~ <sup>slices</sup> ~~up~~ <sup>up</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~fingers~~ <sup>fingers</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~both~~ <sup>both</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~hands~~ <sup>hands</sup> ~~al-~~ <sup>al-</sup> ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Wrist~~ <sup>Wrist</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> ~~cuts~~ <sup>cuts</sup> ~~off~~ <sup>off</sup> ~~both~~ <sup>both</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~Ears~~ <sup>Ears</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~so~~ <sup>so</sup> ~~far~~ <sup>far</sup> ~~mangles~~ <sup>mangles</sup> ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~could~~ <sup>could</sup> ~~(as~~ <sup>(as</sup> ~~afterwards~~ <sup>afterwards</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~found)~~ <sup>found)</sup> ~~turn~~ <sup>turn</sup> ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup> ~~over~~ <sup>over</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~face~~ <sup>face</sup> . Having thus mortified him, and finding the streaming blood not only to run over, or through the Bed, but the Bords of the Chamber too, down into the lower room, she drags him out of the bed, and wraps him up in a foul sheet, and so lets him lye till morning.

No sooner had she compleated this Bloody Tragedy, but ~~she returns again to her Bed, where she endeavoured to take~~ <sup>she returns again to her Bed, where she endeavoured to take</sup> ~~some rest, for by her after behaviour, it cannot be supposed~~ <sup>some rest, for by her after behaviour, it cannot be supposed</sup> ~~she had any sense of the horrid villany she had committed,~~ <sup>she had any sense of the horrid villany she had committed,</sup> ~~and so suddenly and silently was this barbarous Murder per-~~ <sup>and so suddenly and silently was this barbarous Murder per-</sup> ~~petrated, that none of the Neighbours took notice of it.~~ <sup>petrated, that none of the Neighbours took notice of it.</sup>

But the next morning about seven a clock, the Murderers repairs to an Ale-house near her, and calling the man of the House into a private Room, begins a suspicious discourse, as if she had something of importance to discover, and tells him, she thought it was better to *Kill than be Killed* ; he observing her Distracted looks and words, said, *I hope you have not Killed your Husband ?* Yes, said she, *I have, come to our house and you will see it done* ; then said the man, *I must seize you*, No, said she, *You need not, I will not run away, but go home and look out things for his Burial*. Thus away she went, but the Ale-house-keeper setting some body to watch her, went for a Constable, who coming into her House, found her most unconcernedly picking of Wool (her usual Employment) in the lower room, though

